

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

UNCLAS STATE 013565

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: CI, US, PINT

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST FEATURE

1. UNDER TITLE "TO DIE IN SANTIAGO" WASHINGTON POST SUNDAY SUPPLEMENT JAN 20 CARRIED SEVEN PAGE FEATURE BY LAURENCE STERN RECOUNTING LAST DAYS OF CHRISTIAN MONTECINO, YOUNG CHILEAN WHO LEFT IMF JOB HERE TO RETURN TO CHILE SHORTLY BEFORE COUP. STORY STRINGS TOGETHER PORTIONS OF MONTECINO DIARY AND TESTIMONY OF FAMILY MEMBERS, ACCOMPANIED BY PHOTOS OF POST-COUP SANTIAGO SHOT BY MONTECINO AND BROTHER MARCELO. MONTECINO WAS DETAINED BY SOLDIERS ON OCTOBER 16, ACCORDING TO STORY, AND BODY RECOGNIZED AT MORGUE ON OCTOBER 20.

2. FOLLOWING IS EXTRACT FROM CLOSING PORTIONS: QUOTE. AFTER THE DEATH OF CHRISTIAN, MRS. (LILIAN) MONTECINO RUSHED TO US EMBASSY WHERE SHE ONCE HELPED TO ADMINISTER THE U.S. PEACE CORPS PROGRAM, AND LOOKED UP HER OLD FRIEND, AMBASSADOR NATHANIEL DAVIS. "ONE OF MY SONS HAS BEEN KILLED AND I AM AFRAID FOR THE LIFE OF MY OTHER SON," SHE APPEALED. "CAN YOU GIVE HIM REFUGE IN YOUR EMBASSY?"

QTE. SHE WAS TOLD BY A SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL, "I'M SORRY WE CANNOT HELP YOU. THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO. GOODBY, WE ARE VERY BUSY." SO RELATED MARCELO.

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QTE. MRS. MONTECINO RETURNED TO WASHINGTON IN A RAGE AND RUSHED TO HER CHILEAN EMBASSY POSITION AS A SPECIALIST IN CULTURAL AFFAIRS PROGRAMS. SHE CONFRONTED THE NEW CHILEAN AMBASSADOR, WALTER HEITMANN.

QTE. "I TOLD HIM THAT I COULD NO LONGER WORK FOR A REGIME THAT HAD ASSASSINATED MY SON. I TOLD HIM THAT OUT OF RESPECT I HAD TO TELL HIM THE STORY. HE OBJECTED TO THE USE OF THE WORD ASSASSINATION... I ASKED HIM WHETHER HE WOULD KINDLY FIND ANOTHER WORD TO DESCRIBE IT. HE SEEMED TO SOFTEN. HE SAID, "WE'RE ALL HUMAN. WE ALL MAKE MISTAKES." UNQTE.

3. POUCHING COMPLETE TEXT. KISSINGER

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